

middle TOWN NEWS letter

May 2022

52 Years of Green Up Day

GREEN UP DAY is Saturday, May 7.

Based on a Burlington reporter's idea, Governor Deane Davis inaugurated the first Green Up Day in April of 1970. Vermonters have been carrying on this proud community tradition ever since.

Choose your route and pick up bags at the Conservation Commission's table on the Church Green from **8 am – 12 pm on Saturday May 7.**

If you'd like to get out on an earlier date, call Tasha at 802-235-1290 so all routes get scheduled.

New to town and Green Up? Get more information at: <https://greenupvermont.org/>

Memorial Day Parade is BACK!

Come! Sunday, May 29 at 3 pm.

After a two-year forced hiatus, the ad hoc Memorial Day Parade committee will be meeting to plan for this year's treasured event. Under Bob Bruttomesso's tireless leadership, anyone is encouraged to join the group to help make the parade happen, to honor those who served our country and gave the ultimate sacrifice. Send an email to the ad hoc committee's Gmail: middletownspringsmemorialday@gmail.com.

This year's theme is **Patriotism Through Sacrifice.**

Large Dumpster Day

Saturday, May 14 6am-Noon

577 West Street

Details on page 3

HAZARDOUS WASTE ACCEPTED IN

RUTLAND

SATURDAY, APRIL 30 8:30-12:30

Rutland Town Transfer Station
218 Northwood Park

Learn About Crazy Jumping Worms

You may have heard about them. You may have them in your garden! The "crazy Asian jumping snake worms" are suddenly in some (possibly many) of our local gardens, and this is a concern.

The Friends of the Library is sponsoring a presentation by UVM Extension Master Gardener Juanita Burch-Clay, at the Middletown Springs Library on Monday, May 9 at 7:15pm.

Here's some info and a [link](#):

"Earthworms might be a friendly sight in gardens or your favorite tool for catching fish, but most earthworms in the northeast U.S. are non-native... Originally from Asia, jumping worms are invasive species that ... make [soil] inhospitable for some plants and animals... by consuming the upper organic layer of soil, which leaches nutrients and erodes the ground. This makes it hard for many plants (including garden plants) to grow and threatens even the most well-tended lawns. What's worse: humans spread worms without realizing it, carrying jumping worm egg cases (cocoons) in soil, mulch, potted plants, landscaping equipment, and even the treads of shoes and tires."

These worms are emerging now and will be reproducing by mid-May. Watch for "castings" in the soil that resemble coffee grounds. See this UVM Extension [link](#) for more information on how to identify and manage them.

THANKS To the Spring Clean-Up Crew

We're grateful to Laura, Agnes, Edwin and Pascal Derrenderinger and to Kathleen Feeley for helping get winter

gravel out of the grass, washing the windows, and sprucing up the walks and garden beds.



Flammable! A Short Story Festival

Twelve local writers spent March and April creating twelve short stories, under the guidance of Middletown Springs author Herb Childress. On **Saturday, May 14**, members of the Theater in the Woods troupe will read selections from those stories, and the writers will talk about how those stories came to be. Five of the authors are from Middletown Springs! (Come join us to find out who...)

The event will be held at Stone Valley Arts, 145 Main Street in Poultney (across from Poultney High School) at 5 pm. Their story anthology will be available for purchase, with proceeds supporting Stone Valley Arts. Refreshments and conversation will both be complementary.

Library Plant Sale - May 27-29

Get ready for the annual Friends of the Library plant sale, with all proceeds supporting our town library.

Plant donations: Community donations are at the heart of our sale, including annuals, perennials, vegetable starts, shrubs, and even house plants. If you are donating plants, please start preparing them now, and bring them to the library on Thursday May 26 or Friday May 27. (We ask that you not bring plants if your garden has invasive plants, like goutweed, or invasive worms).

Plant sales: There will be a Members-Only preview sale on Friday evening, May 27 from 5-7pm. (An individual membership to the Friends of the Library is only \$5!) The plant sale will be open to the public on Saturday May 28 from 9 am - 3 pm and on Sunday May 29 from 10 am - 1 pm. We hope to see you there. More info posted soon on Front Porch Forum.

NOTICE:

The Town Office will be **CLOSED**
Thursday **May 5** for a
Vermont state training

Pleasant View Cemetery News

The entrance gate of the Pleasant View Cemetery is officially open to the public as of May 1, 2022. Thanks to the unusually early and cooperative spring weather this year, the gate has actually been open for a couple of weeks now, but the official opening date is Sunday, May 1.

The trustees are pleased to report that we were once again able to connect with the Middletown Springs Elementary School and enlist their help with our annual spring cleanup efforts. Thanks to Mr. John Carlson and especially the 6th grade students for their interest and participation in raking and building piles of tree limbs and other debris for subsequent pickup and disposal. We appreciate the assistance and cooperative effort in getting the cemetery back up to snuff.

Once mowing begins, the grounds are scheduled to be mowed every two weeks. Weed-whacking is scheduled with every other mowing, and we try to build the mowing schedule to coincide with the major memorial remembrances of Memorial Day and July 4 as best we can. It is a big job, and a challenging one, as there are obstacles galore! The end result is certainly worthy and deserving of the effort involved.

Lot holders are encouraged to clean up and remove any old, damaged, or unwanted decorations from their plots as soon as possible. We will be cleaning up the leftover Christmas wreaths, old plants, and broken decorations in preparation for the Big Dump Day (May 14).

We welcome and encourage public enjoyment of this beautiful and peaceful setting. It is also a safe haven for pets to enjoy; we ask any and all responsible pet owners to be vigilant and to clean up any "deposits" made on this site.

Artificial flowers are NOT allowed in Pleasant View, and will be discarded when encountered. We prefer live plants which take up CO2 and produce oxygen instead.

Memorial contributions may be made at any time to Pleasantview Cemetery Association, 4 Colvin Road, Middletown Springs, VT.

Pleasant View Cemetery Trustees:
Don Marcy, Art Castle, Terry Redfield, Alice Hoisington



Join us on Sunday, June 19 at 11 am for the first-ever "Strawberry Jam" 5k run/walk and fun run. Organized by Middletown Elementary's Friends For Education (FFE), the event will benefit our special little school! \$20 gets you a race entry, a technical t-shirt, and lots of fun! Then we'll all head over to the Strawberry Festival. Learn more and sign up by Friday, May 20 at strawberryjamrun.eventbrite.com.

Can you help spread (no pun intended) the word to potential sponsors? Starting at just \$50, their company's name or logo will be printed on every single race t-shirt! Volunteers welcome, too. Let's make Strawberry Jam a success together! Call Matt Heering at 802-235-1022 or email Heather Thomas at strawberryjamrun@gmail.com.

Big Dumpster Day

Spring is here, and it is nearly time for the Spring 2022 Big Dumpster Day! The date to remember is **Saturday, May 14, 2022**. The event will be held **from 6 am - noon** at the customary **577 West Street** location, opposite Parker Water Wells.

Middletown Springs residents may discard large unused or unwanted items such as furniture, mattresses, children's toys, and small amounts of construction/demolition debris that do not qualify as normal household trash. (NO contractors, please). The charge per vehicle OR trailer load is \$10.00; truck-plus-trailer loads are \$10.00 each (or \$20.00).

Regular trash and recyclable items, including electronics, **MUST** be taken to the Fort Dumpster facility. Items containing refrigerant (freezers,

refrigerators, air conditioners and the like) are subject to a \$25.00 fee per item and will be accepted at the Fort Dumpster site during this event only.

PLEASE NOTE that hazardous materials such as paints, oils, propane tanks, other solvents and the like are NOT accepted.* Tires are NOT ACCEPTED at this event. Metal items may be disposed of at no charge. The work crew would greatly appreciate you separating mixed loads as much as possible in order to simplify the unloading process.

SPECIAL NOTES: Please bring exact change or a personal check in the correct amount. Please remain in your vehicle unless instructed otherwise. The Town of Middletown Springs shall NOT be responsible for any damages that may occur during the loading or unloading process.

*See Hazardous Waste notice on front page.



Oceans of Possibilities

Make a big splash at the library this summer with **Oceans of Possibilities**, the summer program. Planning is underway for a series of sea-worthy story times, nautical take-and-make activities, movie nights, and stuffed animal sleepover.

Watch for more details on Front Porch Forum, school news, and the library's e-news.

Despite the forecast,
live like it's spring!

- *Lilly Pulitzer*

Friends of the Library

SAVE THE DATE: The Friends of the Library plan to hold a community-wide lawn sale with spaces to rent on the Community Church Green, and a map to other locations in town on September 10, a Saturday. Details will follow.

PLEASE Register Your Dogs!

Vermont state law requires all dogs or wolf-hybrids be licensed with the town clerk on or before April 1 of each year or within 30 days of acquisition. All license fees include funds required to be sent to the state rabies and spay and neuter programs.

Licensure requires that all dogs or wolf-hybrids over the age of 3 months have a current rabies vaccination. Certification of vaccination must be on file with or presented to the town clerk at the time of registration.

As required by the state, **late fees now apply** to all registrations except for animals you've acquired in the last 30 days (for those, regular rates apply).

Late Registration Information

Neutered or Spayed - \$11.00

Not Neutered or Spayed - \$17.00

It is against the law to have unregistered dogs.

NOTE: You can mail your payment, rabies certificate, and other pertinent information to the Town Clerk at PO Box 1232, Middletown Springs 05757 and I will complete the registration and mail you back the license(s) and tags.

Clerk's office is open on Monday & Tuesday from 9am to 4pm; Thursday & Friday from 1pm to 4pm.

Office phone: 802-235-2220

Clerk's Email: middletown@vermontel.net

Patty Kenyon

Town Clerk

A Note from the Town Treasurer

Property tax payments for the 4th and FINAL quarter of fiscal year are due on or before Wednesday, June 15, 2022.

Tax payments will continue to be accepted via mail **OR** by depositing them into the black drop box on the OUTSIDE of the Town Office.

PLEASE, do not remit taxes to the town clerk, as she is not authorized to accept them.

Mail payments to PO Box 1022, Middletown Springs, VT 05757 with a 6/15/22 or prior postmark to be considered on time.

If you require a receipt, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your remittance.

Tax payments received or postmarked AFTER 6/15/22 are considered LATE and DELINQUENT.

An 8% penalty will be imposed if taxes are received or postmarked after June 15 and will be forwarded to the delinquent tax collector Debra House for collection.

Additionally, 1% interest fee will be charged for the 1st 3 months of delinquency, and 1.5% interest per month will be charged thereafter.

FYI – new tax bills will be mailed DIRECTLY to all property owners in mid-August for FY22/23. Please SAVE them as you will need them for tax payment, or your mortgage escrow, or refinance, and income tax homestead declaration. It's the only copy you will receive. If you have an update to your mailing address, please advise, ASAP.

Thank you!

Jenny Talke Munyak, Town Treasurer

802-235-3256, mtstreasurer@vermontel.net

Important Notice on Open Burning

It is that beautiful time of year when everybody is cleaning up the yard. With spring clean-up often come trees that need to be cut or sticks to be picked up. This is a friendly reminder that anyone who wants to open burn needs to get permission **first** from the fire warden or a key person. Open burning is a fire that is outside of a fire pit.

I receive fire danger updates once a day. This helps me determine whether I will grant permission to burn on that day. **Getting permission to burn is critical.** It is a crime in Vermont to kindle an open fire without permission. Now I am a very easygoing guy and in five years I have never issued a ticket. So far this spring it has stayed fairly damp so there have been no issues granting permission to burn.

Any time I issue a burn ban I will post on Front Porch Forum and hang posters around town. As of right now I am the sole person to give permission to burn, but I will be adding a deputy warden or a key person in the near future. I will update with that person's contact information when the time comes. For now, please use my cell phone number as I no longer have a land line. My cell number is **802-558-4239**. Please try calling first and if you don't hear back within 5 minutes, feel free to send a text.

Thank you.

James Reed,

Middletown Springs Forest Fire Warden

Outdoor Story Time

The next session of Outdoor Story Time begins on Wednesday, May 11, and runs through June 1. Join us at 10:30 am for stories, songs, and movement, behind the library on handmade wooden benches.

Library Book Sale June 4 - 6

The Middletown Springs Public Library is holding its annual book sale, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday June 4 - 6. The sale will be at the Historical Society, on the Green in Middletown Springs.

As always, there will be a wide selection of gently read books, movies, puzzles, and games.

Saturday 8am-3pm

Sunday 10am-2pm

On Monday, customers may fill a bag or a box from what's left and make a donation in any amount. All proceeds benefit the library.

For more information, contact the library at middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com or 802-235-2435.

During library hours, they are accepting donations of gently used books and DVDs, complete puzzles and games, until May 31. Please, if you would not buy it, do not donate it: **no mildew, textbooks, or magazines**, and please do not leave donations when the library is closed.

New & New-to-us Books at the Library

DVD Movies

Bee Movie

Belfast

Encanto

The Florida Project

Tangled

West Side Story

Teen/ Young Adult

We Contain Multitudes by Sarah Henstra

I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys

Fiction - Adult

Middlemarch by George Eliot

The Paris Apartment by Lucy Foley

Listening Still by Anne Griffin

Ruth Galloway series # 1-13 by Elly Griffiths

Give Unto Others by Donna Leon

The Maid by Nita Prose

Ocean State by Stewart O'Nan

The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo

by Taylor Jennings Reid

Sea of Tranquility by Emily St. John Mandel

One Italian Summer by Rebecca Serle

French Braid by Anne Tyler

Bruno's Challenge by Martin Walker

A Sunlit Weapon by Jacqueline Winspear

Non-Fiction - Adults

Food as Medicine Every Day by Julie Briley

Watergate A New History by Garrett M. Graff

Maple Syrup Cookbook by Ken Haedrich

Chapter Books & Graphic Novels

Adventures of Sophie Mouse: series 1-6

by Poppy Green

Baby-Sitters Club #11: Good-bye Stacey, Good-bye

by Ann M. Martin

Big Nate: Beware of Low-Flying Corn Muffins

by Lincoln Peirce

Cat Kid Comic Club #3: On Purpose by Dav Pilkey

Daughter of the Deep by Rick Riordan

Picture Books

John's Turn by Mac Barnett

The Night Walk by Marie Dorleans

The Cool Bean by Jory John

The Smart Cookie by Jory John

The Couch Potato by Jory John

The Rock from the Sky by Jon Klassen

King Arthur's Very Great Grandson

by Kenneth Kraegel

Rulers of the Playground by Joseph Kuefler

Here We Come! By Janna Matthies

Time For Kenny by Brian Pinkney

Beautiful Oops by Barney Saltzberg

Bear Has a Story to Tell by Philip C. Stead

Almost Time by Gary D. Schmidt & Elizabeth Stickney

Mel Fell by Corey R. Tabor

On the Night You Were Born by Nancy Tillman

Rude Cakes by Rowboat Watkins

Inside Cat by Brendan Wenzel

Miss Maple's Seeds by Eliza Wheeler

Off-Limits by Helen Yoo

Emile and the Field by Kevin Young

Calendar of Events

May

Vermont Reads Discussion	Wed 4	7pm	Library
Green Up Day	Sat 7	8am-Noon	Town Green
Big Dumpster Day	Sat 14	6am-Noon	West Street
Worm Workshop	Mon 9	7:15pm	Library
Plant Sale	Sat 28	9am-3pm	Library
Plant Sale	Sun 29	10am-1pm	Library
Memorial Day Parade	Sun 29	3pm	Town Green

June

Library Book Sale	Sat 4	8am-3pm	Historical Society
Library Book Sale	Sun 5	10am-2pm	Historical Society
Strawberry Jam	Sun 19	11am	

Calendar of Regular Meetings

<u>Regular Meetings</u>	<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>
Conservation Commission	2 nd Thurs /TBA	TBA	Elizabeth Cooper (235-1406)
Fire Dept. Association	2 nd Wed / 7pm	Firehouse	Art Castle (235-2351)
Fire Dept. Training	Every Tues /6:30pm	Firehouse	Joe Castle (235-2160)
Friends of the Library (FOL)	2 nd Tues / 7:15pm	Library	Ashley Fioretti (235-3000)
Historical Society	1 st Thurs / 7pm	MSHS	David Wright (235-2376)
Library Trustees	4 th Wed / 7pm	Library	Kristal Hier (235-1297)
Planning Commission	1 st Mon /TBA	Town Office	Hilary Solomon (235-1115)
Selectboard	2 nd & 4 th Thurs / 7pm	Town Office	Terry Redfield (235-2084)
Town Facilities Planning	1 st & 3 rd Thurs / 7pm	Town Office	Terry Redfield (235-2084)
Wells Springs School Board	1 st Wed / 6pm	MSSES/WES	Meredith Morgan (235-2059)

Front Porch Forum

Join [Front Porch Forum](#) to know what is happening between issues of the middleTOWN NEWSletter. It's free. It's local.

Submit News & Events to:

Middletown Springs Public Library
middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com
 PO Box 1206
 Middletown Springs, VT 05757
 Deadline: 25th of the month

Town Newsletter

Lots of information in a snippet & list format, plus a Calendar of Events. No ads, articles, or minutes.

This supplements and enhances the Town website & Front Porch Forum (FPF) and will serve the needs of those who don't regularly use computers.

Digital copies are available as a PDF. The PDF is posted on FPF and the Town website or is sent free via email to those who [sign up](#). It is also available in hard copy, delivered by USPS, to those who subscribe for \$7 a year postage. Copies are posted at the Town Office, Crossman's Store, and the library.